## Wisconsin Honey Production Down 26 Percent

Honey production in Wisconsin during 1999 totaled 6.00 million pounds, down 26 percent from the 8.10 million pounds produced in 1998. There were 80,000 honey producing colonies in Wisconsin with an average yield of 75 pounds per colony in 1999, compared with 89,000 colonies in 1998 and a yield of 91 pounds per colony. Wisconsin moved from seventh place in the nation for honey production to ninth place. The number of colonies does not include producers with less than five colonies, or producers who didn't harvest honey from the hive.

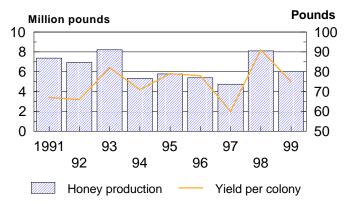
Producers held 4.56 million pounds of honey in stocks on December 15, 1999, which was 13 percent less than the 5.26 million pounds held on December 15, 1998.

The value of Wisconsin's 1999 honey crop was \$4.08 million, down 30 percent from last year's \$5.83 million. Prices averaged 68 cents per pound, down 4 cents per pound from 1998.

Nationally, honey production in 1999 totaled 205 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. Yield per colony averaged 76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Colonies which produced in more than one state were counted in each state, and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Producer honey stocks totaled 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1999 crop averaged 59.9 cents per pound, down from the 65.5 cent average for 1998. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and coops. At the state level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, coop and private. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel. Coop and private prices were lower for all color classes in 1999.

## WISCONSIN HONEY PRODUCTION AND YIELD



## **Honey Production**

State	No. of colonies		Production		Average price		Honey stocks Dec. 15 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Thousands		Thous. lbs.		Cents per lb.		Thous. lbs.	
Wisconsin	89	80	8,099	6,000	72	68	5,264	4,560
Arizona	55	52	3,300	3,224	64	62	1,485	1,548
Arkansas	53	52	3,445	4,628	59	53	1,688	2,592
California	450	505	37,350	30,300	62	53	12,326	10,302
Colorado	27	27	1,944	2,052	70	68	1,594	1,436
Florida	230	228	22,540	23,256	64	53	4,508	4,186
Georgia	75	65	4,200	3,315	69	64	307	497
Idaho	120	120	6,000	5,760	65	59	2,220	3,110
Iowa	50	40	3,900	2,600	70	65	2,301	2,028
Louisiana	41	48	4,551	5,472	59	49	865	821
Michigan	80	73	6,800	6,205	66	66	3,672	3,475
Minnesota	140	145	11,060	11,890	65	61	2,765	3,210
Montana	115	122	14,030	8,540	64	60	5,472	2,135
Nebraska	64	58	4,480	4,466	86	61	2,240	1,965
New York	65	69	5,200	4,830	70	66	2,444	2,077
N. Dakota	230	255	29,440	26,775	63	59	8,832	8,836
Oregon	50	45	2,250	2,565	90	80	1,620	2,026
S. Dakota	225	224	21,375	23,296	64	60	10,901	13,046
Texas	91	108	7,007	8,748	62	64	1,612	2,799
Washington	58	52	2,958	2,600	64	60	1,361	1,170
Wyoming	46	37	2,760	2,664	68	61	524	746
U.S.	2,633	2,688	220,316	205,228	65.5	59.9	80,808	79,361

1/Stocks held by producers do not include stocks under loan. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.